

generating an electronic representation of the region of interest with the sensor array; and  
storing the representation in [an] a computer electronic memory [device].

C<sup>3</sup> 30. (Amended) The method of Claim 29 further comprising:  
providing a laser radiation source and optically coupling  
[a] the laser radiation source to the proximal end of the  
fiber optic cable.

31. (Amended) The method of Claim 29 [wherein the sensor array  
comprises] further comprising providing an acousto-optic  
filter that is coupled to a focal plane array sensor.

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REMARKS

Applicants note that the application makes specific reference to an embodiment utilizing "fluorescence of endogenous tissue" in the specification (at page 4, line 30). This procedure is also described in more detail in the incorporated U.S. Patent and applications on page 15, lines 9-15. The prior art fails to teach or suggest the use of distally mounted sensor in connection with such an embodiment. Although Ito and Nagasaki disclose distally mounted sensors, they fail to disclose or suggest the use of a distally mounted sensor to measure fluorescence of endogeneous tissue or Raman spectral measurements of the tissue.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all claims are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (781) 861-6240.

Respectfully submitted,

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